

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A tape drive with a storage cartridge disposed therein, comprising:

a storage cartridge housing having:

an access window,

a single supply reel rotatably disposed within the storage cartridge housing and having storage tape wound on the supply reel, and

a guide surface disposed within the storage cartridge housing, wherein the guide surface is positioned within the storage cartridge housing to guide the storage tape away from the supply reel and then back to reengage tape of the supply reel before extending to the access window; and

a tape drive having:

at least a first guiding element,

a data transducer, and

a take-up reel, wherein

~~the storage tape extends from the supply reel to the guide surface before extending through the access window to the first guiding element, and~~

the storage tape is guided within the tape drive along a tape path passing adjacent a data transducer, and wound on the take-up reel, wherein the storage tape passes adjacent the data transducer along the tape path between at least the first guiding element and the take-up reel.

Claim 13 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the guide surface includes a rotatable surface.

Claim 14 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the guide surface includes a stationary surface.

Claim 15 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the guide surface includes a contoured surface.

Claim 16 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the storage cartridge housing includes only a single opening wherein the storage tape is accessible.

Claim 17 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the data transducer includes at least one of a read head and a write head.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the storage tape includes a leader block adapted to be releasably attached to the take-up reel.

Claim 20 - 28 (cancelled)

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method for driving a data storage tape cartridge, comprising the acts of:

receiving a data storage cartridge within a tape drive, wherein the storage cartridge includes a housing with a supply reel rotatably disposed therein and a guide surface; and

linearly streaming a storage tape along a tape path from the supply reel of the storage cartridge, adjacent a data transducer located in the tape drive, and to a take-up reel of the tape drive, wherein

the data transducer is located along the tape path between a first guiding element of the tape drive and the take-up reel of the tape drive, and

~~the guide surface lifts the storage tape from the supply reel to the guide surface before extending through the access window to the first guiding element.~~

the guide surface is positioned within the housing to guide the storage tape away from supply reel and back to reengage tape of the supply reel before extending to an access window of the housing.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the guide surface includes a rotatable surface.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the guide surface includes a stationary surface.

Claim 32 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the guide surface includes a contoured surface.

Claim 33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method of claim [[33]] --29--, wherein when streaming the storage tape, the storage tape becomes separated from the reel by a thin layer of air.

Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 29, further including a second guide surface disposed within the housing, wherein the storage tape extends to a second guide surface before extending to the access window.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A tape drive with a storage cartridge disposed therein, comprising:

a storage cartridge housing having:
an access window,

a single supply reel rotatably disposed within the storage cartridge housing and having storage tape wound on the supply reel, and

a guide surface disposed within the storage cartridge housing; and

a tape drive having:

at least a first guiding element,

a data transducer, and

a take-up reel, wherein

~~the storage tape extends from the supply reel to the guide surface before extending through the access window to the first guiding element~~

the guide surface is positioned within the housing to guide the storage tape away from the supply reel and back to reengage the supply reel before extending to the access window of the housing,

the storage tape is guided within the cartridge housing in a single direction around the axis of rotation of the supply reel, and

the storage tape is guided within the tape drive adjacent a data transducer, and wound on the take-up reel.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The tape drive of claim 36, wherein the storage tape is guided adjacent the data transducer between the first guiding element of the tape drive and the take-up reel.